WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for displaying an image generated by at least one detector of an imaging unit, the method comprising:

creating a pixel map identifying locations of bad pixels in an array of pixels in the image detected by the at least one detector, the bad pixels behaving from a group including pixels which do not respond electrically and pixels which are statistically different from surrounding pixels in the array of pixels;

linking the pixel map to the image; and

providing for selective display of the pixel map over the image by a user selecting a display of at least a portion of the created pixel map.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the providing step includes providing a graphical overlay with graphical symbolic representations of the bad pixels superimposed on the image.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising communicating the image to a storage unit, wherein information identifying the bad pixels is communicated as an image header.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising communicating the image to a computer, wherein information identifying the bad pixels is communicated for use by image analysis algorithms executed by the computer, wherein the bad pixels are not mistaken for a clinical pathology.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the providing step includes providing a textual display with information identifying the bad pixels.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting an area of the image, wherein the providing step includes displaying the bad pixels within the selected area.

7. An apparatus for displaying an image generated by at least one detector of an imaging unit, the apparatus comprising:

means for creating a pixel map identifying locations of bad pixels in an array of pixels in the image detected by the at least one detector, the bad pixels behaving from a group including pixels which do not respond electrically and pixels which are statistically different from surrounding pixels in the array of pixels;

means for linking the pixel map to the image; and

means for providing for selective display of the pixel map. Over the image selected by a user selecting a display of at least a portion of the created pixel map.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for providing includes means for providing graphical symbolic representations of the bad pixels superimposed on the image.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising means for communicating the image to a storage unit, wherein information identifying the bad pixels is communicated.

10. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the image is a clinical image.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising means for communicating the image to a computer wherein information identifying the bad pixels is communicated for use by image analysis algorithms executed by the computer, wherein the bad pixels are not mistaken for a clinical pathology.

12. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for providing includes means for providing a textual display with information identifying the bad pixels.

13. An apparatus for displaying an image, the apparatus comprising:

an imaging unit for generating x-rays which pass through a body of interest having a structure;

at least one detector unit for detecting the x-rays which pass through the body of interest to form an image, the image including an array of pixels which contain information on the structure;

a processing unit coupled to the at least one detector unit, the processing unit configured to identify bad pixels within the array of pixels in the image formed by the at least one detector unit, the bad pixels behaving from a group including pixels which do not respond electrically and pixels which are statistically different from surrounding pixels in the array of pixels; and

a display coupled to the processing unit and providing visual display of the image and selectively displaying the bad pixels over the image.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the display selectively displays the bad pixels by providing a graphical overlay with graphical symbolic representations of the bad pixels superimposed on the image.

15. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising an operator input device for selecting an area of the image, wherein the display selectively displays the bad pixels within the selected area of the image.

16. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the image is a clinical image and the processing unit is further configured to link information identifying the bad pixels to the image, wherein image analysis algorithms executed to analyze the image do not mistake the bad pixels for a clinical pathology.